

Miss Macdonald's Christmas Calendar Fund.

Letters from 19 grateful Fellows and Members of the College, expressing most warm and heartfelt thanks for the Christmas gift and good wishes sent from Miss Macdonald's Calendar Fund, have been received.

Letter from Miss Isabel Macdonald to the Council, of thanks for letter of sympathy sent in connection with the recent serious accident which she has sustained.

APPLICATIONS FOR PENSIONS.

Applications for Pensions were received and considered.

THE ALARMING INCREASE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY TRAFFIC.

In accordance with the decision of the last Meeting of the Council the following letter, to be sent to the Chairman of the London Passenger Transport Board and the Minister of Transport was submitted for consideration and agreed :—

To the Chairman,
The London Passenger Transport Board,
55, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

SIR,

I am directed by the Council of the British College of Nurses to draw your attention to the frequent injuries sustained by Fellows and Members and staff caused by traffic.

Naturally the staff and the body of Registered Nurses who compose this College are shocked by the physical injuries sustained by many of their fellow members and the public generally.

To quote a few instances of injury :—

1. *Miss M. Breay*, Vice-President of this College, taxicab collision with motor car, concussion and serious injury to head with permanent damage and scar and disfigurement to face. Removed after accident for treatment to University College Hospital.

2. *Miss Edith Fowler*, Acting Secretary, taxicab accident, injury to head owing to collision, shock and disability.

3. *Hall Maid* knocked down in New Cavendish Street by car, shock, not permanently injured.

4. *Maid* knocked down by car in Kensington, *very serious* injury to head and face, warded in St. Mary Abbots Hospital for many weeks, and off duty for some months and has never fully recovered facial injuries.

5. *Miss Isabel Macdonald*, ex-Vice-President, seriously injured at Marble Arch by careless driver of taxicab, dragged some distance along street, serious injury to knee, involving fracture of bone and tearing of ligaments, still suffering from shock and still disabled.

Miss Dorothy G. Tilby, Councillor, was knocked down by private motor car as she alighted from a bus at the gates of the Waltham Abbey Isolation Hospital; the accident was caused by the driver of the car accelerating to overtake the bus. Miss Tilby was rendered insensible until the following morning and suffered from concussion, scalp wounds and dislocated shoulder, for which she has had to have treatment for seven months, and has been unable to get compensation as witnesses were not obtainable.

6. *Mrs. Bedford Fenwick*, President, and *Miss Gladys Blacklock*, M.B.C.N., owing to speeding up of bus when in act of boarding the bus before they could possibly get in; both were flung violently on to the stone steps opposite Queen's Gate, and as a result suffered from bruising and shock, but not seriously injured.

These circumstances, presumably not singular, impel my Council to protest against the "speeding up" of buses which apparently compels the conductor to start the bus whilst the passengers are on the step and platform; thus knocks, bruises and falls on the floor of the bus are not unusual to passengers, who are thus the victims of a system which disregards the safety of the public, subjecting it to injury and discomfort.

My Council will be pleased to hear from you as to whether your Department will take more active measures concerning the motor traffic and bus regulations, as it considers that the "speeding up" system is most unfair to drivers and conductors, to say nothing of the unfortunate public.

In this connection a very serious matter is getting adequate compensation from the Insurance Companies, and my Council would like to draw your attention to the necessity for further control of rich and powerful Insurance Companies, as without going to law to extract adequate compensation for injuries is exceedingly difficult, as apparently every effort is used to depreciate, if not ignore, the rights of the injured.

The facts concerning these accidents give sufficient evidence to show that people who are giving valuable service to the community suffer disabilities which are calculated to depreciate their efficiency.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A very large number of letters were reported and replies agreed.

Amongst the communications, letters were received from the Prison Commissioners and the Nursing Matron-in-Chief, giving consent for the Administration Class to visit Holloway Prison on February 10th.

It was reported that great interest had been evinced in this visit, so many members realising that crime may be traced to preventable causes, of which nurses might make a serious study.

Letters notifying appointments at home and abroad, of thanks for Diplomas and gifts.

Letters enclosing gifts to Sympathy Fund. Letters expressing deep concern on reading notice in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of Miss Isabel Macdonald's accident.

The President proposed that a letter of congratulation be sent to Miss Dora Chadwick on her election as President of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, in place of Miss M. E. Abram, who has retired.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement.

THE REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby reported that it had given her much pleasure to present £3 6s. from her Stamp Fund in support of the Sympathy Fund, and stated that she had lately seen some very interesting Florence Nightingale items which she would very much like to buy and would be grateful for any help towards their purchase, as at the moment she had very little money in hand.

She had pleasure in reporting a letter she has received from Miss Villiers containing £1 towards the History Section.

The President expressed very warm thanks on behalf of herself and the Council to Miss Bushby for all her interest and time spent in acquiring for the benefit of the College members who were in need, in addition to her unflinching devotion in the cause of the History Section.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported on the various activities of the College:

LECTURES.

Further Lectures were considered, and it was agreed to invite Mr. W. E. Cooke, F.R.C.S.I., to lecture on (1) Typhoid Fever, and (2) Dysentery.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, fine Staffordshire mug, with portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Caroline, surrounded by coloured floral design.

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